

JUN 20 1973

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PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

June 16, 1973

As provided under the provisions of Section 14, Article IV of the Constitution of the State of Texas, I disapprove of H. B. No. 808 and am filing same with the Secretary of State setting forth the following objections:

H. B. 808 changes present law as it relates to the removal of a county seat.

This bill provides that when a county seat has been established for more than forty years a petition for the election of its removal may be had by 2500 qualified voters rather than by a majority. It further provides that the petitioning voters will be ascertained from the voter rolls rather than from the assessment rolls.

While there were many early contests in Texas for the location of county seats, most county court houses are well established and it has been a Texas tradition for many years that the removal should be only after careful consideration by a majority of the voters in the county involved. By allowing merely 2,500 qualified voters to initiate the move of a county seat that has been established for more than forty years seems to me to be subject to possible abuse. It could cost the taxpayers of a county a great deal of money to call an election to move a court house because a small number of qualified voters so decided. In my judgment this is not in the public interest.

H. B. 808 was received in the Governor's Office less than ten (10) days prior to the adjournment of the regular session of the Sixty-third Legislature, and in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Texas, this bill, together with this Proclamation, is filed with the Secretary of State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I
have hereunto signed my name
officially and caused the seal of
the State to be affixed hereto at
Austin, this 16th day of June, 1973.


Dolph Briscoe
Governor of Texas

Secretary of State